

09/817,138
YOR920000569US1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of optimizing a solution for a complex problem solvable by more than one vendor's ~~a plurality of~~ software tool packages, said method comprising:

~~selectively converting problem data into a format appropriate for at least one preselected vendor's set of software tools;~~

inputting said a formatted problem data into said each ~~at least one preselected vendor's~~ set of software tools from different tool vendors; and

~~if more than one vendor has been preselected, comparing results using one or more parameters to determine a comparative ranking of resultant solutions and selecting the optimum solution based on a criteria provided in said problem data resulting from said different vendors' software tools.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving said problem data and said one or more ranking parameters from a decision maker.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said receiving of said problem data and said ranking parameters from said decision maker comprises communicating via a computer network.

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

4. (Original Claim) The method of claim 2, further comprising forwarding a result to said decision maker.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said result comprises at least one of:
said resultant solutions from one or more of said at least one vendor's set of software tools;
said comparative ranking of said solutions; and
said an optimum solution, as based on said comparative ranking.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said forwarding of said result comprises ~~communicating~~ communicating via a computer network.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said decision maker sends said problem data to a ~~single solutions provider who exercises,~~ said solutions provider then exercising said problem data on a plurality of different vendors' software tool packages.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said decision maker sends said problem data to a plurality of vendors, each of which exercises said vendor then exercising said problem data in said vendor's software tool package.

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein each said vendor subsequently forwards said solution to a predesignated solutions provider who determines, based on ~~said~~ criteria one or more parameters to determine a comparative ranking, an optimal solution from said plurality of vendors' solutions.

10. (Currently amended) A system for determining an optimized solution to a problem solvable by software tools from different tool vendors, said system comprising:

~~means for converting a problem description into a format suitable for a software tool package for a plurality of predetermined vendors, each said software tool package comprising at least one software tool;~~

~~means for exercising said a problem description on said a plurality of vendors' software tool packages~~ tools from said different tool vendors; and

~~means for ranking results of obtained from said plurality of vendors' software tool packages~~ tools.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, further comprising means for entering, by an originator, description data describing said problem to be solved, including ~~a~~ criteria for at least one of a verification of results and a comparison ranking of said results.

12. (Original Claim) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for returning at least one result to said originator.

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein said at least one result comprises at least one of the following:

- a ~~result~~ solution of at least one of said at least one software package;
- said ranking results; and
- an optimum solution based on said ranking of said results.

14. (Original Claim) The system of claim 11, wherein said originator enters said description data via a computer network.

15. (Original Claim) The system of claim 12, wherein said means for returning said at least one result comprises a computer network for communicating with said originator.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said originator sends said description data to a ~~single solutions provider who exercises a~~ said solutions provider thereafter exercising said problem on said plurality of vendors' software tool packages tools.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said originator sends said description data to a plurality of vendors, each of which exercises said vendor thereafter exercising said problem ~~description in~~ on said vendor's software tool package.

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein each said vendor subsequently forwards said solution to a predesignated solutions provider who determines, based on said criteria for ~~verification and comparison~~, at least one of a comparative ranking and an optimal solution from said plurality of vendors' solutions.

19. (Currently amended) A system for determining an optimal solution to a problem solvable by software tools from different vendors, said system comprising:

~~a first computer terminal permitting an originator to enter problem data describing a problem to be solved, said data including verification criteria and a comparison criteria, and to transmit said problem data; and~~

at least one second computer for ~~selectively~~ receiving said problem data from ~~said a~~ first computer, said first computer permitting an originator to enter said problem data describing a problem to be solved, said problem data including a comparison criterion, said at least one second computer containing ~~at least one a plurality of software tool package~~ tools from different vendors for exercising said problem data, said at least one second computer selectively transmitting a result of said exercising of said problem data to at least one of said first computer and a predesignated third computer.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising a software tool to verify each said result against ~~said a~~ verification criteria included in said problem data.

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, ~~wherein, if more than one software tool package exercises said problem data to produce more than one problem solution, said verification~~ further comprising a software tool additionally ranks for ranking said more than one problem solution solutions from said plurality of software tools, based on said comparison criteria.

22. (Currently amended) A system for optimizing the solution of a complex problem solvable by software tool packages from different vendors, said system comprising:

a first interface for allowing an operator at a first computer to enter a problem description, said problem description including a ~~verification criteria and a comparison criteria~~ criterion;

a second interface for allowing said operator to transmit said problem description from said first computer to a second computer;

a third interface for allowing said second computer to receive said transmitted problem description and exercise said problem on each of a plurality of software tools from different vendors;

~~a first software tool using said verification criteria to verify a solution of said problem description; and~~

a second ranking software tool using that uses said comparison ~~criteria~~ criterion to determine a ranking of ~~any~~ solutions of said problem description resulting from said software tools; and

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

~~a fourth interface to transmit said ranking back to said first computer.~~

23. (Currently amended) A system for determining an optimized solution to a problem solvable by software tools from different vendors, said system comprising:

a converter providing, from a problem description, a format suitable for each of a plurality of software tool package for a plurality of predetermined vendors, ~~each said software tool package comprising at least one software tool tools~~;

an oversight module exercising said problem description on each of said plurality of vendors' software tool packages tools from said different vendors; and

a ranker module sorting and ranking results of said plurality of ~~vendors' software tool packages tools~~.

24. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions executable by a computer to find an optimal solution to a problem solvable on software tools from different vendors, said instructions comprising one or more of:

a first interface for allowing an operator at a first computer to enter a problem description, said problem description including ~~a verification criteria and a software tool result comparison criteria~~ criterion;

a second interface for allowing said operator to transmit said problem description from a first computer to a second computer;

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

a third interface for allowing said second computer to receive said transmitted problem description and exercise said problem on one of said vendor's software tool; and

~~a first software tool using said verification criteria to verify a solution of said problem description;~~

a ~~second software tool~~ ranking module using said comparison ~~criteria~~ criterion to determine a ranking of ~~any~~ solutions of said problem description as exercised on said different vendors' software tools; and

~~a fourth interface to transmit said ranking back to said first computer.~~

25. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions executable by a computer to perform a method of optimizing a solution for a complex problem solvable by each of a plurality of software tool packages from different vendors, said instructions comprising:

~~selectively converting problem data into a format appropriate for at least one preselected vendor's set of software tools;~~

an input module for inputting said formatted problem data into said at least one preselected vendor's set of software tools so that said problem data can be exercised by said vendor's software tools; and

a ranking module so that, if more than one vendor has been preselected, for at least one of comparing results of resultant solutions and a selection of selecting an optimum solution based on a criteria one or more ranking parameters provided in said problem data.

09/817,138

YOR920000569US1

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said complex problem comprises an electronic chip design.